

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

The art collection and services of The Cleveland Museum of Art's Extensions Division are surveyed in an exhibition now on view through October 9, 1977, at Lakewood's Kenneth C. Beck Center for the Cultural Arts.

The Extensions Division, which designs and installs art exhibits in schools and libraries throughout Cuyahoga County, as well as Karamu House, The Beck Center, and The Cleveland Museum of Art's own educational exhibition area, has been providing traveling art exhibits for Cleveland institutions since 1916, the year the Museum opened to the public.

Its collection, housed within the Museum but separate from the Museum's permanent or primary collection, now numbers over 17,000 objects embracing all media, styles, and historical periods. Works are acquired by gift or purchase; many contemporary works have been purchased from the Museum's May Shows.

The approximately 80 works selected for this exhibition are indicative of the high quality and diversity of this collection. They consist of paintings and prints, sculpture, textiles, pottery and decorative and utilitarian objects in enamel, glass, ivory, wood, stone and metal.

The oldest object in the exhibition is an Egyptian alabaster bowl dating from approximately 3,000 B.C. Among other works of unusual interest are exquisite Japanese ivory carvings and textiles, an 11th-century Indian stone sculpture, contemporary Swedish glassware, Polish and Norwegian woodenware, an African mask and fetish figure, ceremonial blankets of North Pacific Coast Indians, and paintings, pottery and enamels by contemporary Cleveland artists.

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According to Andrew Chakalis, supervisor of the Extensions Division, the objects on view are among the finest in the collection and reflect its strengths in such areas as North American Indian, African, Oriental, and European folk art, as well as works by artists of the Cleveland school.

As in all Extension Division exhibits, the art works in this show are accompanied by identifying labels which may explain the technique or process by which the work was made, provide background on the culture or society which produced it, or other information which will enhance the viewer's understanding and appreciation of the work.

An important activity of the Extensions Division is the preservation of objects in the collection--working with Museum conservators to keep objects which are in continual use in prime condition. Illustrating this aspect of the Division's work is a recently restored 19th-century Japanese ivory vase, together with the Conservation Department's detailed analysis of its condition and proposal for treatment.

Another important part of the exhibition is a slide-tape, prepared by Extensions Division staff member Lynette Rhodes, which describes the functions of the Division while providing behind-the-scenes glimpses of their work from conception and design of an installation through its installation.

Selection of objects and design and installation of the Beck Center exhibition was done by Andrew Chakalis, George Brewster, and Lynette Rhodes.

The Beck Center gallery, located at 17801 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, is open every weekday but Tuesday from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. and on evenings of theatrical performances from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Sunday hours are 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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